

The Assessment

Idaho is a member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium which will provide summative, interim, and formative assessment for the state beginning with the 2014-2015 year.

Two of the major design features of the Common Core State Standards Mathematics, **focus and coherence**, have important implications for the design of the SMARTER Balanced assessment system.

- Coherence-Coherence implies that the standards are more than a mere checklist; cluster headings, domains, and descriptions of the critical areas are organized to highlight the unity and integration of the content.
- Focus-The focus of the standards is meant to allow time for mastery of the intricate, important, and necessary things at each grade level that are, in turn, prerequisites for the next level of intricate, important and necessary things.

The Claims

Four claims are proposed for the Common Core State Standards Mathematics summative assessment.

- Claim #1 Concepts & Procedures “Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.”
- Claim #2 Problem Solving “Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies.”
- Claim #3 Communicating Reasoning “Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.”
- Claim #4 Modeling and Data Analysis “Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.”

Each of the four [proposed] claims is a summary statement about the knowledge and skill students will be expected to demonstrate on the assessment. Each claim will require **evidence** that will support interpretations of students’ competencies towards achievement of the claim. The new assessment will include various types of items and tasks will connect content and practice.

Additional information regarding content specifications [in draft form] may be found at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/ContentSpecs/MathContentSpecifications.pdf>

Additional information regarding SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium may be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>